

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed October 14, 2005.

The requisite Petition and Fees accompany this Amendment.

In the non-final Office Action, all the Claims are rejected over Baumann 6,117,275 in view of Young et al 5,873,980.

At pages 2-5 of the Detailed Action, the Primary Examiner has helpfully provided a detailed recitation of what the Examiner believes the two applied references teach or suggest, but the references are not directly applied to any specific claims.

The claims have been amended to more clearly point out the invention. Claim 1 has been amended to explicitly call for "a container which holds a static liquid heat absorbing mass through which said vapour is directly passed for condensing the vapour and collecting the solvent in the liquid phase, the static liquid heat absorbing mass and the vapour being substantially the same material;..." This arrangement is not taught or suggested by Baumann '275 or Young et al '980.

Claim 1 also calls for "a vapour management module for condensing vapour remaining uncondensed by said direct condensation module; and a vapour outlet located above the surface of said static heat absorbing mass in said container, said vapour outlet communicating with said vapour management module to allow for passage of vapour from the container to the vapour management module."

It is respectfully submitted that none of the references teach this structure, and certainly none of the references suggest this structure in combination with the claimed container holding a static liquid heat absorbing mass which is substantially the same material as the vapour. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable. Claims 2, 3 and 8-34 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and that does likewise believed allowable. Claims 4-7 are cancelled.

Independent claim 36 has been amended to similarly claim that "said heat absorbing mass (is) permeable to vapor and condensate passing through said mass, the mass being

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comprised of the same liquid as said condensate." Claims 37-44 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 36, and are consequently likewise believed allowable.

Independent claim 45 calls for apparatus for connecting heating means for a distillation chamber in a solvent vapor recovery system to a power supply and a control means. The claim also calls for "sensing means for sensing a parameter which is dependent upon the rate of vaporization of solvent within said distillation chamber and (for) generating reference signals..." It is again respectfully submitted that no such structure is taught or suggested in any of the cited references, and so this claim is believed allowable. Claims 46-55 depend from Independent claim 45 and so is likewise believed allowable.

Since the application now appears in condition for allowance, an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the primary Examiner perceives formal or other objections to the claims, or to any other part of the application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below. Prompt attention will be given to the contact with a view to placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any unpaid fees to deposit account number 50-1794.

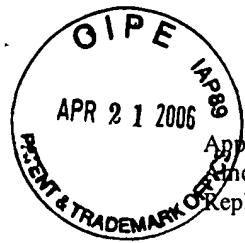
Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4/21/06

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